

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to include in its budget the necessary funds to help finance the expansion of the Falls of the Ohio State Park Interpretive Center.

Whereas, One of the great wonders of the natural world exists at the Falls of the Ohio;

Whereas, The Falls of the Ohio stands as proof that an ocean and coral reef existed more than 350 million years ago in Clark County;

Whereas, Today the coral reef stretches from Louisville to Indianapolis, exposed only at the Falls of the Ohio and a few limestone quarries around Indiana;

Whereas, The Falls of the Ohio is the only place in the world where such a large, exposed fossil reef of this period exists;

Whereas, More than 220 acres of exposed, Devonian age fossil beds make up the Falls of the Ohio, the site of the Falls of the Ohio State Park;

Whereas, In addition to the great natural wonder that exists at the Falls of the Ohio, it is also the place where, in October 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first came together at the Falls of the Ohio to plan and prepare for their expedition west;

Whereas, The Corps of Discovery was born at the Falls of the Ohio when Lewis and Clark selected the first members of the expedition and enlisted them in the army during a ceremony witnessed by General George Rogers Clark;

Whereas, The Corps of Discovery departed for the West from Clarksville, Indiana, on October 26, 1803;

Whereas, On July 13, 2001, the National Park Service certified the Falls of the Ohio State Park as an official Lewis and Clark site associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; and

Whereas, Through the efforts of park staff, Hoosiers and visitors to our state will have the opportunity to view one of the great natural wonders of the world and to become more aware of the historical events that took place in the area that is now the Falls of the Ohio State Park: Therefore,

SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly recognizes the importance of the Falls of the Ohio State Park Interpretive Center to today's Hoosiers and for generations to come.

SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.